

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

Reply to Senate resolution of December 16, 1885, relative to the Second Black Horse Cavalry.

JANUARY 7, 1886.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, January 5, 1886.

The Secretary of War has the honor to transmit to the United States Senate a letter from the Adjutant-General of the Army, dated the 28th ultimo, and the accompanying copies of petitions of the enlisted men of the several companies of the Seventh Regiment of New York Cavalry, commonly called the "Second Black Horse Cavalry," the same being transmitted in response to the resolution of the Senate of December 16, 1885, as follows:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, directed to transmit to the Senate copies of all official orders and correspondence relative to the recruiting, enlistment, organization, history, and discharge of the Seventh Regiment New York Cavalry Volunteers, commonly called the Second Black Horse Cavalry; also, to state whether any bounty has been paid to the enlisted men of said regiment; and if not, upon what grounds such bounty has been denied.

It will be observed from the letter of the Adjutant-General that there is no correspondence on file in his office relating to the recruitment and enlistment of the regiment above referred to, authority to raise the force having apparently been given Col. A. J. Morrison by the governor of New York under date of August 31, 1861.

It is not known to this Department whether or not the enlisted men of the "Second Black Horse Cavalry" have received bounty, as claims of that nature pertain to the Second Auditor of the Treasury.

WM. C. ENDICOTT,
Secretary of War.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, December 28, 1885.

SIR: I have the honor to return Senate resolution of the 16th instant, calling for copies of all orders and correspondence relative to the recruitment, enlistment, &c., of the Seventh Regiment New York Cavalry, commonly called the "Second Black Horse Cavalry," and for information

whether bounty was paid its members, and if not, the grounds upon which bounty was denied, with the following report:

There is no correspondence on file in this office relating to the recruitment and enlistment of the Seventh New York Cavalry. Authority to raise the force would seem to have been given Col. A. J. Morrison by the governor of New York, under date of August 31, 1861. A regiment was not raised, but the field and staff and eight companies (A to H, inclusive) were mustered into the service of the United States from October 8 to November 6, 1861. The force left New York for this city November 23, 1861, and arrived here November 24 and 25, 1861. Upon its arrival it was sent to the dismounted camp (Camp Stoneman) at Giesboro' Point, D. C., and assigned to the First Brigade Volunteer Cavalry Division, Army of the Potomac, November 27, 1861. The organization as described remained at the dismounted camp referred to from date of its arrival in this city until it was mustered out of service, March 31, 1862.

It was mustered out on petition of the enlisted men of the several companies, which was transmitted to this office by Senator Ira Harris in a letter dated March 20, 1862, urging that the petitioners be equipped and furnished as cavalry, or discharged to enable them to re-enlist in other regiments, and because, on account of an excess of cavalry at the time, no objection seemed to exist to a compliance with the terms of the petition as regards muster-out.

Copies of the petitions referred to, and of Senator Harris's letter of March 20, 1862, are herewith.

On March 20, 1862, Captain Gibson, mustering officer, this city, was instructed to muster out the force, but owing to a clerical error in its designation an amended order directing its muster out was forwarded Captain Gibson March 22, 1862. The letter of instructions of March 20, 1862, is not of record; a copy of the instructions of March 22, 1862, is herewith.

It is not known to this office whether or not the enlisted men of the "Second Black Horse Cavalry" have received bounty, as claims of that nature pertain to the Second Auditor of the Treasury; but as they failed to serve two years, as provided by section 13 of the act of July 22, 1861, under which they were called into service, and were mustered out on their own request, it is believed that bounty has been denied them upon these grounds.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

WILLARD'S HOTEL,
March 20, 1862.

MY DEAR SIR: I inclose herewith petitions signed by nearly all the men of the New York Seventh Cavalry (Morrison's). They comprise as good a set of men as my State has furnished. They come from the county of Rensselaer, adjoining that of my residence. I know many of them personally. They are eager for active service. If they were disbanded and mustered out of service now, I have no doubt that nine-tenths of them would at once enlist in regiments where they have friends and join the forward movement of the Army. I am very clearly of opinion that this would be the most judicious arrangement which could be made. As they are now, they of course are but an expense to the Government, and are not likely to be put in any better condition.

Allow me to repeat my recommendation that prompt action be taken, in order that the men may be employed to fill up other regiments before the Army moves.

Yours, sincerely,

IRA HARRIS.

General THOMAS.

CAMP STONEMAN,

Washington, D. C., March 15, 1862.

To his Excellency Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War :

Your petitioners, members of Company A, Seventh Regiment, New York State Volunteer Cavalry, A. J. Morrison colonel commanding, humbly beg leave to present to the honorable Secretary of War that they have been in camp here since the 27th of November last without other equipments than sabers; that they have lost all hope of ever receiving more or of doing service to the country as cavalrymen; that they are heartily tired and sick of this inactivity and fast becoming demoralized on account of it. And your petitioners further beg leave to say that if disbanded here a very large number would at once re-enlist in such other arms of the service where they may have friends and their services are desired; wherefore, we humbly beg your excellency that if it is the purpose of the War Department to equip us as cavalry that it may be done as soon as possible, but if such is not its purpose then we pray your excellency to muster us out of service here and soon, to afford us the opportunity of re-enlisting as aforementioned.

BENJ. F. COLE,
Orderly Sergeant.
 W. W. MCCULLOUGH,
Second Sergeant.
 B. B. GILMAN,
Third Corporal.

And 67 others.

Similar petition of same date from members of Company B, signed by Sergeants S. Harris, S. J. Taylor, F. H. Preston, and 79 others.

Similar petition of same date from members of Company C, signed by Sergeants Daniel E. Scriven, Adam Van Voast, William L. Chequer, and 64 others.

Similar petition of same date from members of Company D, signed by Horton Van Nostall, James Dunk, Patrick Bradley, and 56 others.

Similar petition of same date from members of Company E, signed by Sergeants Lorenzo B. Delun and L. B. Harrington, Corporal T. G. Barker, and 55 others.

Similar petition of same date from members of Company F, signed by Sergeant J. C. Franklin, Corporals A. F. Groff and G. T. Whitcom, and 50 others.

Similar petition of same date from members of Company G, signed by First Sergeant W. H. H. Emmons and Quartermaster-Sergeant Henry H. Moore, Sergeant Henry A. Bailey, and 84 others.

Similar petition of same date from members of Company H, signed by First Sergeant William C. Rowland, Quartermaster-Sergeant James R. Cole, Sergeant Gilbert Rice, and 65 others.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, March 22, 1862.

CAPTAIN: An error occurred in my letter to you of the 20th instant, wherein you were directed to muster out of service the Sixth New York Cavalry, which should have been the Seventh.

You are therefore directed to muster out of service the Seventh Regiment New York Cavalry, officers and men, and to report to this office when the regiment is thus mustered out.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. D. RUGGLES,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Captain GIBSON,
Washington, D. C.

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